(d) One of the MIG-21 variants was grounded for a short period during 1985-86 for intensive inspection/testing. Further details in this regard cannot be disclosed in public interest.

Purchase of SSK submarines for the Indian Navy

2138. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be plased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General has adversely commented in its report on the purchase of the SSK submarines for the Indian Navy that an exacting technical requirement of "Unfettered right of rejection" was not insisted upon by Government, in case the submarines' "Self-noise" exceeded the specified value;

(b) whether excess 'self-noise' of the submarine can endanger its very safety by making it easier for the enemy to detect it; and

(c) what were the compulsions with Government not to insist on such a right of rejection where the safety of the submarine itself and the lives of its crew were involved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) The Audit Para, in question, has commented upon certain matters connected with the procurement of SSK submarines. The observations of Audit, as well as the comments of the Ministry, are under examination of the Public Accounts Committee.

Delayed Central Projects

2139. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the delayed Central Projects costing Rs. 10 crores or more originally;

(b) what is the over-run in each case in the completion time and the cost as estimated at present;

(c) what is the resulting hike in the foreign exchange component in each case due to the fall in the value of rupee;

(d) what are the details of common factors that have been identified for causing delay;

(e) whether it is possible to manage them; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The monitoring system of the Ministry covers only projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above and the details in respect of each of the projects are given *inter alia* in the Annual Report of the Ministry circulated to Members every year.

(c) Cost escalation in projects takes place due to various factors, such as fluctuations in foreign exchange parity rates, increase in input costs, additional imposts levied by Government etc. Impact of these factors on the project cost varies from one time period to another. It is therefore, not possible to quantify the hike attributable to foreign exchange element vis-a-vis parity value of rupee.

(d) to (f) Project delays are on account of various reasons, which include—